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URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1939.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

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### *Medical Officer of Health :*

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B.CH.B., D.P.H.  
(On Active Service from September, 1939).

### *Temporary Medical Officer of Health :*

A P. FRY, M.C., M.B., B.S.  
(From September, 1939).

### *Sanitary Inspector :*

JOHN DENTON, A.R.SAN.INST.  
(Until August, 1939).

F. E. SMALE, C.R.SAN.INST., M.S.I.A.  
(From August, 1939).

### *Health Visitor :*

ALICE O'NEILL, C.M.B., S.R.N.

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## STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1939.

Area, 2,503 acres.

Population, 6,735 (estimated mid-year, 1939); 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses, 2,200.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £209.

Rateable Value, £50,352.

General Rate, 13/10 in the £.

Birth Rate, 16.3.

Death Rate, 10.2 (corrected Death Rate, 9.3).

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births, 18.3.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea, Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 4.

From other Tuberculous Diseases, 1.

Tuberculosis Death Rate : Pulmonary, 0.593.

,,           ,,           ,,   Non-Pulmonary, 0.148.

## THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1939.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Tettenhall  
Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1939.

In doing so I should explain, firstly, that the late appearance of the Report is due to the figures of vital Statistics from the Registrar General having been received in September instead of in May as in previous years, and secondly, that the briefness of the Report is in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 2067 giving instructions that it "should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year," also that careful records of statistics should be kept for embodying in a complete report after the termination of the War.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

The population figure is given as 6,735, a decrease of 3 from 1938. With the increase in number of inhabited houses from 2,090 in 1938 to 2,200 in 1939 the average number of inhabitants per house is now only 3.06.

The Birth Rate shows a rise from 12.8 per 1,000 of the resident population in 1938 to 16.3 this year. The Death Rate has fallen from 12.0 to 10.2 (corrected Death Rate 9.3).

The Infantile Mortality rate at 18.3 per 1,000 Births is gratifyingly low since the figure for England and Wales is 50.

The Maternal Mortality was again nil.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES JOINT HOSPITAL.

The South Staffs. Joint Hospital Board has been duly constituted. Its task of choosing a site for the Infectious Disease Hospital on suitable land centrally situated for all the participating Local Authorities, of which Tettenhall is one, has proved difficult and no decision on this point has been reached. Meanwhile, cases of infectious disease from Tettenhall continue to be admitted to the Wolverhampton Borough Hospital under the arrangement whereby 4 beds are reserved for them; this number has proved adequate.



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year there were 24 notifications.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—Three cases were notified and were all admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

The total number of days in hospital of the three cases was 153 days and the total cost £39 16s. 6d., an average of 51 days in hospital per case at £13 5s. 6d. per case.

Prompt use is made of Diphtheria anti-toxin by the local practitioners to whom it is available free of charge under arrangements made by the local authority for cases whose financial circumstances necessitate it.

**SCARLET FEVER.**—There were 10 cases, 5 of which were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

The total number of days in hospital was 106 and the total cost £28 2s. 6d., an average of 21 days in hospital per case at £5 12s. 6d. per case.

**ERYSIPELAS.**—Three cases, none of which were admitted to hospital and no deaths.

**PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.**—Four new cases were notified. There were 4 deaths (2 males and 2 females). One female was admitted to Sanatorium.

**NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.**—There were no new cases notified. There was one death—a female.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**—One case notified and treated at home.

**PNEUMONIA.**—Eight cases notified, of which 3 died.

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**—One case was notified and there were no deaths.

**CANCER.**—There were 10 deaths (the same as last year)—4 males and 6 females.

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against diphtheria of the new entrants to the elementary schools, which was interrupted in 1938, was resumed again this year.

The high percentage of parents who take advantage of this offer of protection for their children shews how much they appreciate it.

## **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

The rooms adjoining the Council Offices which were used as a School Clinic and Infant Welfare Centre had to be taken over for A.R.P. purposes.

The Clinic and Welfare Centre moved to the Parish Hall, Upper Street, and the work was carried on there under much less convenient conditions.

## **WATER SUPPLY.**

The supply during the year has been satisfactory although complaints have been received of the taste of the water due to chlorination. The amount of chlorine added to the supply is varied according to the bacterial quality as revealed by examination and this accounts for the complaints.

## **SEWERAGE.**

I am indebted to your Surveyor for the following report on sewerage.

The Smestow Valley Sewerage Scheme was completed in August and now takes the sewage from a portion of the Seisdon Rural District's area in Aldersley and Wrottesley detached, the whole of the sewage being taken by gravitation to the works at Blackbrook.

### **Tinacre Hill and Windmill Lane Areas.**

The new sewerage scheme prepared for the above areas was modified as a result of the commencement of the War in September, and a revised scheme for the Windmill Lane area only has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

## **THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.**

### **Smoke Nuisances.**

Again no action has been found necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of the one large stack in the district.

### **Shops.**

Administration of the Shops Act was taken over by your Sanitary Inspector on the 1st October.

The County Council have delegated their powers under the Shops Acts 1912-36 to the Urban District Council and both the general closing sections and those dealing with the health and hours of the assistants are enforced by the local authority as also is the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938.

No statutory action was found necessary during the year.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

Only slow progress has been made with the conversion of Waste Water Closets, there still being 222 such conveniences in existence; 17 closets were converted to wash-down Water Closets during the year. There are 119 cesspools in the area.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The number of sanitary dust bins in the area is now 3,052; 12 ashpits have been converted during the year.

### **Housing.**

Demolition Orders made under Section 11 of the Housing Act was 1, and the position with regard to the 57 houses in respect of which demolition orders have been made since 1934 is as follows:—

Demolished	...	...	...	26
Vacant but not demolished	...	...	...	9
Undertakings to repair carried out	...	...	...	19
Still occupied	...	...	...	3

### **Overcrowding.**

The number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year was 2, a decrease of 9, which is a decided improvement. There should not be much difficulty in securing the abatement of the remaining cases.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **(a) Milk Supply.**

The number of producers, wholesale purveyors and retail purveyors is substantially the same as last year and a total of 126 inspections were made of the cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in the area and the conditions found were satisfactory.

### **(b) Meat and Other Foods.**

During the year 887 visits for the purpose of meat inspection were paid to the 5 slaughterhouses and 237 visits to the various retail shops in the district.

A total of 761 cattle, 188 calves, 7,380 sheep and lambs and 638 pigs were inspected during the year, and 1-ton 3-cwts. 11-lbs. of meat and offal were surrendered during the year for such diseases as tuberculosis, cirrhosis due to flukes, swine fever, melanosis, abscesses, pneumonia and necrosis.

The meat supply generally has been, as in previous years, of good quality.



(c) **Adulteration, Etc.**

**FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.**

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Jenkins, Inspector for South Staffordshire for the following report:—

Out of 23 samples of Milk taken, only 1 was found to be adulterated and none of the general foods submitted for analysis were reported adulterated.

**MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.**

Of the 20 samples of undesignated milk submitted for examination, 6 were unsatisfactory from the cleanliness standard but none contained tubercle bacilli.

The figures show that whilst there is an increase in the number reported on unfavourably for cleanliness there is a decrease in the number containing tubercle bacilli.

The figures compare favourably with the whole of the County.

Of 5 samples of Accredited Milk submitted for examination, only 1 was not up to the required standard.

**MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDERS, 1936-38.**

There are now 18 licences in force for the production or sale of graded Milk in the district, an increase of 1 over last year.

**GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.**

A total of 2,678 inspections were made during the year; 961 of dwelling houses for public health, housing and overcrowding purposes, and 1,717 of food and various types of premises, as routine work.

Number of Notices served—137 (95 informal and 42 formal) in respect of 222 premises.

Improvements carried out to dwelling houses and other premises totalled 324 for the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. P. FRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

January, 1941.

